

1930 Ninth Avenue Helena, MT 59601 JEALTH or 406 443 2584

PH: 406.4HEALTH or 406.443.2584

Fax: 406.457.8990

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Contact: Beth Norberg, Environmental Services Division, 406-447-8385 Gayle Shirley, Communications Coordinator, 406-457-8908

Health Department Gets Grant for Wastewater Education

The Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department has been awarded a \$1,500 grant by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts of Montana, Inc., with funding authorized through the federal Clean Water Act.

The grant has been used to buy a professional portable display, a small-scale model of an onsite wastewater treatment system, and audiovisual aids for presentations and other public outreach related to septic system maintenance. The displays have been used to help educate the public and professional groups such as real estate agents, building industry representatives, and onsite wastewater professionals.

"The goal of this project was to continue and to strengthen the outreach and education efforts of the county's new septic system maintenance program," according to Beth Norberg, a registered sanitarian with the program.

The Lewis and Clark City-County Board of Health adopted requirements for the operation and maintenance of septic systems last January. One of the goals of the regulations is to help reduce non-point source pollution in the county.

Staff of the septic maintenance program have created a "lending library" of outreach materials for use by organizations that want to educate the public about non-point source pollution. The Lake Helena Watershed Group and the Lewis and Clark County Water Quality Protection District have so far used the materials.

For more information about the grant and the materials available on loan, contact Norberg at 447-8385.

The Lewis & Clark City-County Health Department's mission is to improve and protect the health of all Lewis & Clark County residents.

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